



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.**

National Ocean Service  
Office of Response and Restoration  
c/o EPA Office of Site Remediation and Restoration (HIO)  
1 Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
14 March 2002

Mr. David Dickerson  
United States EPA-New England  
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration  
1 Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02114

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Dear Dave:

Thank-you for the Explanation of Significant Differences, New Bedford Harbor - Record of Decision, and the fact sheet (Harbor Cleanup News) for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site, dated February 2002. NOAA appreciates the cooperation and coordination that EPA has undertaken at this site.

NOAA has long supported the removal of PCB-laden sediment from New Bedford Harbor. Of lesser interest is the disposal of such sediment. Nevertheless, we were pleased to note that EPA plans to eliminate Confined Disposal (CDF) D and take those sediments earmarked for this CDF to an offsite location. Hence, EPA will not need to fill 17 acres of the estuary. Rather, only 2 estuarine acres will be required for dewatering activities. With the planned removal of much of the contaminated sediment, these 15 acres likely will provide habitat for natural resources of trust to NOAA.

In addition, NOAA is working with the city of New Bedford and other state and federal partners to facilitate the cleanup and reuse a number of brownfields in the city of New Bedford under the EPA Brownfields Showcase Community. The proposed EPA action will compliment the brownfields program by opening doors to new waterfront revitalization options not currently feasible due to regulatory and other constraints associated with PCB contamination in the harbor.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Finkelstein, Ph.D.  
Robert Neely

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CC: Jack Terrill (NOAA)  
Jim Brown (EPA)  
Mayor Frederick Kalisz (City of New Bedford)